

SENATE BILL No. 287

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 31-10-2-1.

Synopsis: Nondiscrimination. Modifies the policy and purpose provision of Title 31 of the Indiana Code to include policies encouraging alternatives to confinement and prohibiting discrimination.

Effective: July 1, 2009.

Taylor

January 7, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Corrections, Criminal, and Civil Matters.

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Introduced

First Regular Session 116th General Assembly (2009)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 287

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning family law and juvenile law.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. IC 31-10-2-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009]: Sec. 1. It is the policy of this state and the purpose of this title to:

- (1) recognize the importance of family and children in our society;
- (2) recognize the responsibility of the state to enhance the viability of children and family in our society;
- (3) acknowledge the responsibility each person owes to the other;
- (4) strengthen family life by assisting parents to fulfill their parental obligations;
- (5) ensure that children within the juvenile justice system are treated as persons in need of care, protection, treatment, and rehabilitation;
- (6) remove children from families only when it is in the child's best interest or in the best interest of public safety;
- (7) provide for adoption as a viable permanency plan for children who are adjudicated children in need of services;

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IN 287—LS 7129/DI 107+



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- 1 (8) provide a juvenile justice system that protects the public by
- 2 enforcing the legal obligations that children have to society and
- 3 society has to children;
- 4 (9) use diversionary programs when appropriate;
- 5 (10) provide a judicial procedure that:
- 6 (A) ensures fair hearings;
- 7 (B) recognizes and enforces the legal rights of children and
- 8 their parents; and
- 9 (C) recognizes and enforces the accountability of children and
- 10 parents;
- 11 (11) promote public safety and individual accountability by the
- 12 imposition of appropriate sanctions; ~~and~~
- 13 (12) provide a continuum of services, **including culturally**
- 14 **competent services**, developed in a cooperative effort by local
- 15 governments and the state;
- 16 (13) **provide culturally competent diversion programs and**
- 17 **alternatives to confinement;**
- 18 (14) **provide a judicial process that ensures that children and**
- 19 **their parents are not subjected to bias, discrimination, or**
- 20 **harassment based on the child's or parent's race, ethnicity,**
- 21 **ancestry, national origin, or color; and**
- 22 (15) **provide children with fair and equal access to all**
- 23 **available services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits**
- 24 **regardless of race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, or**
- 25 **color.**

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